

PROVIDENCE, R.I.
JOURNALM. 63,635
S. 194,795

FOIAb3b

OCT 13 1965

CPYRGHT

Time for Us to Play It Cool in Indonesia

When he heard that an Indonesian mob had burned down the Communist headquarters in Jakarta and that other mobs in the Indonesian capital were continuing to demonstrate against Communism, a shrewd local observer commented the other day:

"That's fine, but I wish they would stop shouting 'Long live America.'"

He's got a point.

It is a hopeful and refreshing change to find the people of Jakarta up in arms against Communism for a change. This is the same city where a U.S. library has been sacked and where even the residence of the American ambassador has not been adequately protected against Communist-led mobs.

This sudden change of mood seems to confirm the wisdom of the patience displayed by former U.S. Ambassador to Jakarta, Howard P. Jones, who even on the darkest

days retained his faith in ultimate U.S.-Indonesian friendship and who persevered in attempting to build areas of understanding between our two countries long after most Americans had written off Indonesia and its volatile leader, President Sukarno, as lost to communism.

It appears that Mr. Jones was right when he argued that there was strong anti-Communist and anti-Chinese sentiment in Indonesia and that the Indonesian army was a powerful counterweight to the strong Indonesian Communist Party.

There is some cause for cautious rejoicing.

But we should be wary, as the before-mentioned observer is wary, of Indonesians shouting pro-American slogans. Indonesians on the whole, we suspect, aren't pro-anything except Indonesia. That has been the chief cause of the Communist downfall—in so far as the

Communists have fallen—and not any strong affection for the United States or for the economic system we espouse. Indonesian's got fed up with their Communists who acted for China's—not Indonesia's—interests.

Indonesians who go about shouting pro-American slogans as though they were working for the CIA, which some of them may be doing, are only going to draw nationalistic ire upon themselves as the Peking-loving Communists have done.

This is a time for Americans to play it cool in Indonesia. The Indonesians who can beat the Communists—who aren't beaten yet, by a long shot—are Indonesians who aren't for anybody but Indonesia. After what the United States has been through in that unhappy republic in recent years, this kind of parochial patriot, beholden to no foreigner, ought to be friend enough.